

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

b. SKORTMANN was born circa 1920, is 5'8" tall, weighs about 170 pounds, has a very prominent nose, sandy complexion, dark brown long hair which is combed straight back without a part. He was dressed less severely than OPRISEN in a somewhat rumpled single-breasted light brown check suit of German manufacture. He wore a wedding ring on his left hand and was very well acquainted with the Frankfurt area, especially the Taunus region of Niederhochstadt, Kronberg and Koenigsstein. He is quite outspoken, an operational activist whose philosophy is eat or be eaten, and a fluent Russian speaker. He was a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union for several years. He is a heavy smoker who prefers filtered cigarettes. He accepted a drink each time it was offered. He believes that operational efforts should be directed against top-level targets in the hope of an immediate operational gain rather than in recruiting low-placed young agents who may in time grow into well-placed sources. He is very dynamic, quick speaking and wields his authority forcefully. He often refers to a small address book which he carries with him and which is filled with penned notations. He made three telephone calls from the apartment during the afternoon. He is the CE chief of the UP-SWING Dienststelle 24 in Frankfurt and in charge of GOLDERS and BARTH. The cover for his group is believed to be the Bundesbahn Inspektion office in Frankfurt. He believes that the Soviets should be opposed with their own operational methods and that operational activity against them in West Germany should be increased. He especially feels that greater advantage should be taken of the jealousy and mutual distrust of the Soviets and that greater use should be made of poison pen letters. He too decried administrative procedures which curtailed operational effectiveness, e.g. the lengthy reports required to justify purchase of a first-class plane ticket instead of tourist class, or use of plane instead of train. He gave several ludicrous examples of Parkinson's Law in operation in Germany, especially during World War II. He commented that the Soviets will be dumbfounded if they find no hidden microphones, because they expect to find them and their discovery will not cause any international complications.

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